

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PREPARATIONS FOR NATIONAL CONGRESS: TUSCAN CHRISTIAN
DEMOCRATS START VOTING

1. IN TALKS WITH VARIOUS CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC (DC) LEADERS IN
THE TUSCAN REGION, TWO RECURRENT THEMES HAVE BEEN HEARD: THE
NEED TO CHANGE DC LEADERSHIP AND INDICATIONS OF INCREASED STRENGTH
IN FORCES SUPPORTING CURRENT NATIONAL PARTY SECRETARY
ZACCAGNINI.

2. PROVINCIAL PARTY LEADERS IN GROSSETO, LUCCA, FLORENCE AND
LIVORNO ALL REPEATED, WITH VARIOUS EMPHASES, THE NEED TO HAVE
NEW MEN LEAD THE PARTY AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL. NEW PROVINCIAL
SECRETARIES IN LUCCA AND LIVORNO HAVE TAKEN OVER SINCE THE
JUNE 15 ELECTIONS AND THEY BELIEVE THIS "RENEWAL AT BASE" MUST
BE CARRIED THROUGH TO THE TOP. THE CURRENT
POLITICAL CRISIS IS THOUGHT TO HAVE RETARDED THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
OF THIS PROCESS BUT ALL WANT CONGRESS HELD NO MATTER
WHAT THE FINAL OUTCOME OF GOVERNMENT CRISIS IS.

3. ALL SOURCES INDICATED THAT THE LISTS SUPPORTING THE ZACCAGNINI
LINE WILL RANGE FOR 30 PER CENT TO 60 PER CENT IN THE REGION.
SINCE FLORENCE AND LUCCA BETWEEN THEM WILL HAVE A NEAR MAJORITY
IN THE REGIONAL CONGRESS WHICH SELECTS THE DELEGATES
FOR THE NATIONAL CONGRESS, THE RESULTS OF THE PROVINCIAL

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ELECTIONS IN THESE TWO PROVINCES WILL BE RELATIVELY MORE IMPOR-

TANT. SOURCES IN LUCCA INDICATE THAT THE LINEA ZACCAGNINI LISTS SHOULD DO VERY WELL HAVING BETWEEN 50 PERCENT AND 55 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL DELEGATION. IN FLORENCE ZACCAGNINI LISTS ARE EXPECTED TO RANGE NEAR 30 PER CENT OF THE VOTE. (THE DOROTEI AND ANDREOTTI LISTS ARE EXPECTED TO OBTAIN ANOTHER 30 PERCENT.)

4. LISTS ALIGNED WITH FANFANI ARE EXPECTED TO RANGE NEAR THE 40 PER CENT FIGURE ACROSS THE REGION AS A WHOLE. HOWEVER, SOURCES IN FLORENCE, LIVORNO AND LUCCA INDICATED THAT THERE WAS MOVEMENT WITHIN THE FANFANIANI THAT COULD RESULT IN SUPPORTERS OF FORLANI BREAKING AWAY.

5. COMMENT: IN SUM, AS USUAL, THE SITUATION IS FLUID WITH ALL TYPES OF COMBINATIONS POSSIBLE DEPENDING ON THE INDIVIDUAL READING OF THE SITUATION AT THE TIME THE DECISIONS MUST BE MADE. IF THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS IS NOT SOLVED, THE FORCES PUSHING FOR CHANGE AT THE TOP (CENTERED IN ZACCAGNINI LISTS BUT FOUND ELSEWHERE) WILL BE LESS LIKELY TO GAIN THE SUPPORT OF THE MODERATES. THESE FORCES ARE MUCH MORE TIMID ABOUT CHANGING MEN DURING CRISES. HOWEVER, THEIR SUPPORT APPEARS TO SECURE A KEY TUSCAN DELEGATION TO THE NATIONAL CONGRESS COMMITTED TO SUPPORT THE CURRENT NATIONAL SECRETARY AND INITIATE THE RETIREMENT OF THE OLD GUARD.

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